1   **1.** (currently amended) A graphical user interface for specifying an action which modifies

2   a value of a <u>record field</u> <u>that is common to records belong to a set thereof</u>~~of a record~~

3   stored in a memory device~~.~~<u>, the graphical user interface belonging to a system which has</u>

4   <u>access to the memory device, executes queries which return records belonging to the set,</u>

5   <u>and generates and responds to the graphical user interface</u>~~the action, once specified, being~~

6   ~~thereafter automatically performed when a query with which the action is associated~~

7   ~~returns the record, the query being executed on a processor that has access to the memory~~

8   ~~device and interacts with the graphical user interface~~, and

9   the graphical user interface comprising:

10   a window <u>in the graphical user interface, the window displaying</u>~~containing~~ a table

11   wherein the <u>record field</u> <u>whose value is to be modified by the action</u>~~of the record~~ has an

12   entry that is selectable by ~~the~~ <u>a</u> user <u>of the graphical user interface</u>, the entry including

13   a first field of the entry that identifies the <u>record field</u> ~~of the record~~ to be

14   modified by the action; and

15   one or more action fields of the entry that, when the user has selected the

16   entry, the user may set to specify the action<u>, the system responding to the identified</u>

17   <u>record field and the specified action when the system executes a query that is associated</u>

18   <u>with the action and returns a record that belongs to the set by modifying the value in the</u>

19   <u>record field in the returned record that is identified by the entry's first field as specified in</u>

20   <u>the one or more action fields of the entry.</u>~~.~~

1   **2.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the ~~identified field's~~ values <u>of the record field identified by the entry's first field</u>

3   belong to one of a plurality of types; and

4   the <u>entry's</u> action fields ~~in the entry~~ are determined by the type of the identified

5   field's values.

4

1   **3.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 2 wherein:

2   the plurality of types include types whose values belong to ordered sets that are

3   defined in the system ~~in~~ to which the graphical user interface ~~is used~~belongs, types whose

4   values specify times, and types whose values specify persons.

1   **4.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the user may set the entry's action fields to specify that the ~~identified~~ record field

3   in the returned record that is identified by the entry's first field be cleared.

1   **5.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the user may set the entry's action fields to specify a value and to specify that the

3   value be assigned to the record field in the returned record that is identified by the entry's

4   first field~~identified field~~.

1   **6.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   when the ~~field's~~ entry is selected, the user may set the entry's action fields to

3   specify an operation by which a new value for the record field identified by the entry's

4   first field~~identified field~~ may be computed from a current value which is the identified

5   record field's value in the returned record when the returned record is returned by the

6   query execution.

1   **7.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 6 wherein:

2   the ~~field's~~ value of the record field identified by the entry's first field belongs to

3   an ordered set of values; and

4   the user may set the action fields to specify an increment operation wherein the

5   new value that is assigned to the identified record field's value in the returned record is a

6   value that follows the identified record field's current value in the ordered set of values.

1   **8.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the ~~identified~~ record field identified by the entry's first field may have a null value

3   when the record is returned by the query execution; and

4   the user may set the entry's action fields to specify an action that is to be

5   performed when the identified record field in the returned record has the null value and/or

6   an action that is to be performed when the identified record field in the returned record

7   does not have the null value.

1   **9.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the user may set the entry's action fields to specify a reference field in the returned

3   record which is another field ~~in~~ that is common to ~~the~~ records belonging to the set therof

4   and a reference field operation by which a new value in the returned record for the record

5   field identified by the entry's first field ~~for the identified field~~ may be computed from a

6   current value of the returned record's reference field, the current value being the value

7   that the returned record's reference field has when the returned record is returned ~~from the~~

8   ~~query~~ by the query execution.

1   **10.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 9 wherein:

2   the ~~identified~~ record field identified by the entry's first field in the returned record

3   may have a null value when the record is returned by the query execution; and

4   the user may set the action fields to specify a first reference field and a first

5   reference field operation that is to be performed when the identified record field in the

6   returned record has the null value and/or a second reference field and a second reference

7   field operation that is to be performed when the identified record field in the returned

8   record does not have the null value.

1   **11.** (original) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 9 wherein:

2   the reference field operation assigns the current value of the returned record's

3   reference field to the identified record field in the returned record.

1   **12.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 9 wherein:

2   the identified record field and the reference field have time values; and

3   the user may further set the action fields to specify an amount of time by which

4   the reference field's current value is increased or decreased to compute the new value for

5   the identified record field.

1   **13.** (original) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 12 wherein:

2   the user may further set the action fields to specify the amount of time in one of a

3   plurality of ways.

1   **14.** (original) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 13 wherein:

2   one of the plurality of ways is days; and

3   when days have been specified, the user may further set the action fields to

4   specify whether the days will be computed as business days or calendar days.

1   **15.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 12 wherein:

2   one of the reference fields is a field whose value is always set to the current time

3   when the query execution returns the returned record.

1   **16.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the identified record field has a person value; and

3   the user may set the entry's action fields to specify a role reference field in the

4   returned record from which a new person value for the ~~identified~~ record field identified

5   by the entry's first field may be obtained, the role reference field being another field

6   common to the record belonging to the set thereof, the role reference field referring to an

7   ordered set of person values wherein one of the person values is a last-used person value,

8   and the role reference field in the returned record ~~obtaining~~ being set to the next person

9   value following the last-used person value at the time the returned record is returned by

10 the query execution and the valur of the identified record field in the returned record

11 being set from the value of the role reference field in the returned record~~as the new~~

12 ~~person value for the identified field~~.

1   **17.** (canceled)

1   **18.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 16 wherein:

2   another action has been specified which assigns the person reference field a value

3   from a role reference field; and

4   when the returned record is returned by the query execution, actions which assign

5   person fields values from role reference fields are performed prior to other actions.

1   **19.** (currently amended) The graphical user interface set forth in claim 16 wherein:

2   the user may further set the action fields to directly specify a person value, the

3   identified record field in the returned record being set from the directly-specified person

4   value when the returned record is returned by the query execution.